



The

STRAIGHT ARROW

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO SERVE PEOPLE

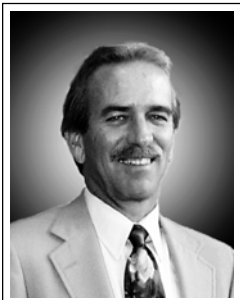


Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2001

A message to County employees

By John F. Michaelson, Transitional County Administrative Officer



John Michaelson

Although the County has no control over how the indictments announced on August 23 will be played out – that task is in the hands of the justice system – news of this nature cannot help but have an effect on the organization.

Once again we as a County have been confronted with allegations predating our successful efforts to make the County more accountable and trustworthy. When issues like this are raised, it creates an impression among the public we serve that the County has not made any progress.

There are a few important facts to keep in mind as we cope with the new headlines and the subsequent suspicion.

All of the staff people implicated by either the law enforcement investigations or the County's own exhaustive internal investigation have been replaced by people who have undergone thorough background checks, and these people have carried out their public service mission honorably and ethically.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has enacted a long list of meaningful reforms aimed at making the County more accountable to the public and creating an environment hostile to corruption. For example, during the past two years the County has seriously reformed its leasing and purchasing practices. Companies attempting to do business with the County must disclose whether they employ any former County workers. The County adopted a Code of Ethics, and County government was structurally reorganized to provide greater oversight to the County's fiscal operations.

Doing more than what is required by the law or practiced by other government agencies has not been easy. It often requires us to take extra steps and seek review and approval more often while remaining as efficient as ever. However, these measures are a necessary sacrifice if we hope to restore the public's trust. The County's leadership realizes this and appreciates the extra effort.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend those County employees who have taken steps on their own to present a positive image. Some employees have shared with me how, in light of our recent challenges, they have made it a point to provide exemplary service when dealing directly with the public. I can't stress enough how important it is at all times – but especially now – to serve our customers with courtesy and efficiency. What you do reflects on the entire organization, and those of you who keep this in mind are making a genuine impact.

Meanwhile, the County's efforts to recover what was lost through unethical behavior and ensure that no one profits from their misdeeds have so far been very successful. The civil lawsuit that resulted from the County's internal investigation has so far yielded settlements in excess of \$7 million. The County is vigorously pursuing the litigation on the remaining defendants.

I can't predict when the County will once again be known more for the good that it does rather than the mistakes made by a very few. In the meantime, please know that the County's leadership deeply appreciates and admires the dedication shown by the County's workforce. You have provided the highest level of public service in spite of the cloud of suspicion that has hung over us for the past three years. ♦



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JESD, Veteran's Affairs reunite two sisters

By Monique Thomas, Staff Writer

Throughout her life, Shanell O'Neal had known about a little sister whom she had never met.

She knew they shared the same father, Melvin Pollock; he died when she was three, and her sister was born three months later.

Shanell remembers seeing the girl as a child at their grandmother's home. However, the two had never actually met.

When Shanell began working for the County Department of Veteran's Affairs last year, she never imagined that her life was about to change.



Shanell O'Neal and Sabina Pollock. Photo by Lee Keller

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Fred Aguiar**Chairman, Board of Supervisors**

Fred Aguiar

Editor's Note: On June 11, Board of Supervisors Chairman Fred Aguiar delivered a State of the County address to about 550 business and community leaders and county officials. In the speech, Chairman Aguiar described how county government has succeeded in serving the public with innovation and foresight while recovering from epic scandal.

The audience included Chairman Aguiar's four colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Bill Postmus, Jon Mikels, Dennis Hansberger and Jerry Eaves and many mayors and city council members.

Although recovering from the scandal has proven to be a gargantuan task, the county has not wavered in its duty to be a careful steward of the public's resources while providing the highest level of public service. And Chairman Aguiar praised the county's more than 18,000 employees for persevering, often in the face of daily controversy and rapid change.

The following are key excerpts from the speech:

... **S**an Bernardino County is geographically the largest county in the continental U.S. With over 20,000 square miles of territory, you could fit the entire states of Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Rhode Island within its boundaries and still have room left over. As a matter of fact, if considered a state, San Bernardino County's economy would rank 39th. Census data shows our county's population has grown 20% since 1990. We now have over 1.7 million residents, making us the fourth largest of California's counties in terms of population. ...

In County government today, we face a whole set of different internal dynamics than we did 10 years ago. We have recently learned our county is not immune from problems all too commonly associated with large government agencies. Ten years ago, there was no discussion of a county scandal.

I stand here today not to review the last 10 years of county history, but to affirm that the county has gone through a significant transformation over the past two and a half years.

In response to the corruption, this Board has taken a number of corrective actions changing the way it does business and has taken steps to hold accountable those who have harmed the county and its residents.

After its own investigation, the county filed suit against 27 defendants, seven of whom plead guilty to federal corruption charges. I can safely say this Board has been extremely disappointed with the sentences handed down so far.

Because these defendants have received the equivalent to a "slap on the wrist" by the federal courts, the county's civil lawsuits stand as our best hope of making those who betrayed us pay for their crimes and to ensure that citizens of this county recover the dollars lost through the misdeeds.

We've moved full speed ahead with the lawsuits and, to date, have collected nearly \$7 million through settlements with a number of defendants. ...

In the meantime, we have no choice but to continue dealing with this issue. However, I believe we have begun to turn the corner from having this scandal consume all of our attention to a time when we can focus our energy attending to other critical county issues.

In the wake of these events, the County conducted a wholesale review of its organization and management resulting in the replacement of more than two dozen department heads and administrators. Some of these vacancies occurred as a result of normal turnover and retirements, but overall, these changes gave the voters, the Board, and the County Administrative Officer an opportunity to rebuild county government on a foundation of new ideas, responsibility and accountability.

The Board is now subjecting applicants for top-level positions to an unprecedented level of background investigation, including full criminal and financial checks.

As a result of these personnel changes and subsequent recruitments, I believe we have a top-notch management team in place dedicated to the highest level of professional ethics and truly accountable to the residents of this county. ...

But changing personnel was not enough. This Board committed itself to reviewing contracts and existing policies to ensure adequate oversight and proper controls over county activities.

We adopted a procurement code of ethics and revised many purchasing guidelines to promote increased competition and proper public review. Service contracts that had remained in place for years have been subjected to competitive bidding, ensuring maximum value for taxpayers. ...

In addition, new policies were put into place to discourage unethical behavior.

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Magda Lawson: first woman supervisor made an impression

By Monique Thomas, Staff Writer

For nearly 150 years, the Board of Supervisors has been a staple of San Bernardino County. Throughout that rich history, women have played a significant role in shaping county government. The first woman to have the distinction of serving on the board was Magda Lawson. A woman ahead of her time, Magda overcame obstacles and persevered in the male-dominated world of politics.

Magda Elisabeth Larson was born the second of three daughters on April 5, 1887 in Svanedorg, Sweden. At 14, Magda came to the United States with little money, and was unable to speak English. She stayed with Swedish friends already settled in Boston. To better fit into her American surroundings, Magda changed her name from "Larson" to "Lawson."

From 1901 to 1906 Magda worked odd jobs and taught herself to speak English. A few years later, she worked her way across the United States to Los Angeles. In her spare time, she would travel to places like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. Her adventurous attitude would give Magda the opportunity to learn more about the United States and its colorful people.

In 1918 she moved to Needles and obtained a job as an office typist, bookkeeper and receptionist at the Earl Hodge Automobile Agency. Before long, she had a thorough understanding of the business. After the death of Earl Hodge in 1920, Magda ran the business for five years. She saved it from near-bankruptcy and solidified a strong financial inheritance for Hodge's heirs. Magda inherited the business. It was also at this time that she bought a ranch in Needles.

By 1927 Magda had expanded her insurance field and her property holdings. She became a licensed insurance broker in 1936. During World War II, she served on the Needles Ration Board for four and a half years.

Considering Magda's success and adventurous nature, it was no surprise that she would consider a career in politics. In

1952 she won the seat of First District Supervisor, defeating incumbent H. George Cunningham and becoming San Bernardino County's first female Supervisor. She would serve for two consecutive terms.

During her time in office, Magda was known for her personal style of governing. She knew her constituents individually and personally resolved their community problems. She drove almost every inch of her 20,000-square-mile district, wearing out five personal vehicles during one-half million miles of driving.

Magda, the strong willed immigrant who taught herself to speak English, continued her quest for knowledge throughout her terms in office. She enrolled in business school near Los Angeles to improve her understanding of government. She also attended a music school, mastered the violin and perfected an interest in painting. Magda was a charter member of the Professional and Business Women's Club of Needles.

After ending her service to County government, Magda retired in Needles. Aside from music and painting, she also enjoyed writing and working in her garden. At the age of 89, Magda suffered a leg injury and was forced to spend her remaining years at the Valley Convalescent Hospital in San Bernardino. She died at the age of 97, on November 13, 1984.

Magda Lawson was truly a Renaissance woman. At 14 she left her country and her family to begin a new life in America. She made the transition from immigrant to businesswoman – and later the first woman Supervisor of San Bernardino County. Her story of courage, perseverance, and duty serves as an inspiration to women and men alike. ♦



Magda Lawson

EXERCISES IN ETHICS

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Scenario: An assistant county manager, who bears the responsibility for economic development activities, regularly receives many invitations to attend social events because of his job responsibilities. For example, he was invited to play golf at a posh golf course with some individuals who are in a position to bring business investments into the county. Is there an ethical issue here?

He also asked for advice about his ethical obligations if he chooses to move to the private sector in the future and uses some of his social contacts to make that career change.

Response: The International City/County Management Association general guideline on gifts requires that "Members

should not directly or indirectly solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift, whether it be money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise or any other form—under the following circumstances: (1) it could be reasonably inferred or expected that the gift was intended to influence them in the performance of their official duties; or (2) the gift was intended to serve as a reward for any official action on their part."

There are some circumstances in which the county might conclude that it does want a public employee to participate in certain social events, particularly to promote economic development in the community. An ethical approach would be

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER *(Continued from page 2)*

Recognizing that instituting all the policies and procedures in the world would not guarantee that someone intent upon wrongdoing would be stopped, the Board embraced the concept that deceit was more difficult if the "light were to shine on everything." For this reason, agenda items have included more information, more items have appeared on the Board's discussion calendar, regular procurement reports are being generated, and the public has greater access to information.

And to lessen the influence of former county officials, the Board adopted a "revolving door ordinance" making it a crime for a former official, whether elected or appointed, to lobby the county on behalf of a new employer for one year after leaving employment.

Further, the Board adopted a policy prohibiting county officials from participating in county-sponsored auctions and it tightened its Real Estate Policies to ensure that proper procedures are followed. All of this was aimed at installing safeguards to ensure that taxpayers get the best deal for their money.

The bottom line is that we want full disclosure and we welcome public scrutiny. The lawsuits, the personnel changes, the new policies and increased communication – all of these things have been aimed at addressing one critical goal – restoring public trust.

Clearly, this will not occur overnight and clearly, it will be a long process. ...

But I must emphasize that overhauling county government in the wake of the scandal is not the only thing this county has accomplished in the recent past. During this difficult period, we have been able to accomplish a great deal in terms of public service. Most of this falls into four categories:

- Enhancing our Fiscal Stability
- Promoting Economic Development
- Improving our Resident's Quality of Life, and
- Increasing Public Safety

... General fund reserves have grown from \$18 million in 1997 to nearly \$28 million this year. That number could grow to over \$30 million next year. Additionally, the county has set aside \$32 million in a special reserve account to pay down the debt on the new county Medical Center. ...

The new medical center has now been open for two years and its employees have worked hard to make it a success. We've been able to meet our debt obligations and provide superior medical care to our county's residents.

The Board is also putting the finishing touches on the 2001-02 Budget. This spending plan not only increases reserves, but sets aside \$14 million to address economic uncertainties

during the upcoming year. As a result of our prudent reserves and due to the conservative investment policies of our county treasurer, Dick Larsen, the nation's largest rating agencies have recently given the County their highest rating. ...

But given the uncertain economic outlook of California's economy, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that we remain in a strong fiscal position.

For this reason, the Board of Supervisors is committed to a strong countywide economic development program. We know investment now will mean positive dividends for us far into the future.

... Over the last year we have reorganized several county departments and brought them together to better promote regional economic development. We combined our economic development department, Jobs and Employment Services, Redevelopment, Small Business Development and Land Use

Services into one group overseen by one administrator to coordinate our varied economic development functions. ...

In an effort to demonstrate our commitment to working with cities instead of competing against them, we have convened regional economic promotional groups in the West and East Valleys with one soon to be started in the High Desert. The major focus of these groups is to work collectively on promoting our entire region.

Supervisor Postmus has made economic development one of his highest priorities and has proposed reductions in some of the county's development fees.

In the area of redevelopment, under the leadership of Supervisor Mikels, the county continues to promote the San Sevaine Redevelopment Area.

As many of you know, the California Speedway has been the centerpiece of this redevelopment project. It has grown from 71,000 seats to 93,000 today, creating an estimated \$125 million in economic activity annually. ...

The County is also a participant in the economic development promise of the former Norton Air Force Base. Both Supervisor Eaves and Supervisor Hansberger represent the County on the Inland Valley Development Agency Board of Directors. That agency recently signed an agreement to begin developing the property.

Both IVDA and the developer believe that the former base will potentially bring thousands of jobs into the area. ...

While not always obvious to us, quality of life issues play a critical role in retaining and attracting employers. The Board



State of the County address held June 11, 2001, at the Radisson Hotel, San Bernardino.

Photo by Lee Keller

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The workers' compensation mystery

By Linda Matthews, Human Resources Officer II, Risk Management Division

Have you ever wondered how the workers' compensation system works? Why some employees don't get the benefits you think they should? And why other employees get benefits when it seemed to you they shouldn't? The quick answer is that it is all based upon what the doctor says about the injury or illness. If the workers' compensation physician says that the employee's injury is work related, then the employee is usually entitled to benefits. If the physician says the injury is not work related, then the employee's claim is denied.



Sometimes, this determination is easy to make. If an employee trips in the workplace, two witnesses see the trip, and the doctor says the broken leg was caused by the trip, then the employee's claim will be accepted immediately. Sometimes, cause of injury is not so clear. If an employee has a back problem, many factors could have contributed to it. It could be the employee's job duties. It could also be weight, a prior injury, a weekend of sports or house projects, or a pre-existing condition. In these cases, the claim is delayed for 90 days. We gather all of the employee's prior medical records and other related information from the various physicians. An appointment is then scheduled for the employee with the consulting doctor. The doctor takes a medical history, examines the injured worker, reviews all the prior medical records and other documents, and then makes a determination on whether the injury was work-related or not. Risk Management then accepts or denies the claim based upon the doctor's report.

So if you ever wonder why Risk Management isn't paying for an injury, it is probably because we're following the doctor's orders! ♦

Personal liability for harassment?

By Shari Daniels, Human Resource Analyst

The County of San Bernardino prohibits any form of unlawful harassment of employees and applicants for employment on the basis of age, ancestry, color, race, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, or sexual orientation. It is also the policy of the County to provide a work environment free from unwelcome sexual overtures, advances or coercion. Employees are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful to all persons within our work place.

In addition to County policy, effective January 1, 2001, Assembly Bill 1856 amended the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to allow an employee to be held personally liable if he/she engages in harassing behavior. This means your personal assets may be at risk if you harass a co-worker because of their age, ancestry, color, marital status, medical condition, national origin, physical or mental disability, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Any individual who believes he/she has been harassed has the right to file a complaint with the County's EEO Office, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

If you have any questions, you may call the EEO Office at 387-5582. ♦



Plant quarantines protect people

By John Gardner, Chief Deputy Commissioner/Sealer

Many people remember the malathion-spewing helicopters flying over San Bernardino County in the early 1990s, yet few ever notice the millions of sterilized Medflies released by plane from Redlands to Chino twice each week. While all of this aerial work is done by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, related support work crucial to keeping foreign insect pests out of the country is performed six days a week by County personnel.

Inspections of plant shipments at the U.S. Postal Service's sectional center in Redlands start at 4 a.m. every day except Sunday by a rotating crew comprised of Janet Davey, Scott Zinsmeyer and Jim Duncan. Once they complete examining all of the packages, its off to the UPS hub at the Ontario airport, FedEx, and other air cargo shippers. The deterrent value of these inspections keeps commercial shippers from shipping infested or infected plants and fruits to California. Most violations are found in non-commercial shipments.

Other inspections occur as well at commercial nurseries, moving companies and truck terminals. For most of these inspections, local area inspectors Ed Pearson, Bill Herr, Theresa Doyle, George Nash and Pete Lounsbury as well as Scott and Janet are available to perform timely inspections on perishable items and those with deadlines for delivery. Many people



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER *(Continued from page 4)*

took advantage of one-time monies and invested heavily in our parks system. Between 2000-2002, we will have begun or completed over \$11 million in park projects countywide.

In addition, the Board has aggressively moved towards implementing its Master Plan for a trails system that when completed will connect the mountains with the ocean. With the generous support of the Wildlands Conservancy and others, we are moving forward with over \$7 million in improvements to our trails.

Let me share with you an exciting project in the Muscoy area that has significantly improved the quality of life for its residents. Supervisor Eaves has worked with the PAL Center to turn a county-owned site from a defunct park into a thriving educational center that now enrolls over 327 students. ...

And as many of you know, the centerpiece of the county's cultural program is the County Museum. With perseverance and leadership from Supervisor Hansberger, the museum is embarking upon a major facilities expansion campaign. With the use of a federal grant, the department will finish the planning and design for a Hall of Paleontology.

Competition for the siting of this facility was intense and due to Supervisor Hansberger's efforts, our County Museum was chosen as the site for this hall.

The Museum's research in the county and the Southwestern United States continues to provide data for conservation, planning, and economic development, while enriching the museum's collections with artifacts. The research program has brought national recognition, having been featured on PBS, the Discovery Channel, and network television.

In the 4th District, we completed a seismic retrofit of the Yorba-Slaughter Adobe Museum in Chino. This Adobe is the oldest standing residence in the county and this critical project will help ensure that the facility and its artifacts are protected for the enjoyment of future generations. ...

As many of you have read in the news lately, San Bernardino County's Juvenile Hall population has exploded.

Previously, the Board approved an expansion of the West Valley Juvenile Hall—increasing the capacity by 160 beds. Construction is now underway and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2003. In the meantime, our Central Juvenile Hall in San Bernardino, built for 280 individuals, averages a population of between 500-600 kids a day. This severe overcrowding led the California Board of Corrections to require the adoption of a corrective action plan.

In response, this county had to take swift action to ensure that violent offenders were maintained in a secure environment. The short-term solution was the approval of a 200-bed tent

annex. While not ideal, it will provide a temporary solution to meet the Board of Corrections requirements.

At the same time, we submitted an application to the state to secure funding for construction of a new facility in the High Desert. Due in part to the support of Supervisor Postmus, the Board was successful in its effort to secure over \$19 million in state funding. Combining that with over \$10 million in local funds, we now have the cash necessary to begin construction on this 200-bed project. And consistent with the Board's fiscally conservative approach, this project will not require the issuance of any debt.

While much of our public safety efforts have been targeted towards our juvenile hall, our local law enforcement agencies are continuing to expand their collaborative efforts. This has been particularly successful in the areas of drug interdiction and in our fight against truancy. Under the leadership of Sheriff Penrod, the Narcotics Division arrested more than 4,000 people during calendar year 2000 and seized \$40 million worth of drugs; shutting down nearly 500 meth labs.

And with the cooperation of our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Herb Fischer, operation CleanSWEEP continues to produce great results in our fight against truancy. The program is in place in 75 schools and the results have cut campus crime by as much as 68 percent and reduced student expulsions by 20 percent. ...

It is time to plan for our future and set new goals. We welcome the challenge and look forward to making San Bernardino County an even greater place to live.

I mentioned earlier the impact that the scandal has had on this county in terms of changes in personnel, policies and procedures. But in closing I want to take a moment and talk about our county employees, some of who are here today.

The scandal and the media attention have been particularly hard on employees who have dedicated themselves daily to public service. Most people don't realize how often the county and its employees touch their lives.

From our road crews, to our library staff, to our preschool programs, to our caregivers, each put their heart and soul into their work. These employees take pride in their work and, unfortunately, the actions of few have tarnished the image of the county, and in turn, their work, in the process.

I publicly want to thank each and every employee for the job they do each day. I know the successes we spoke of today are a testament to their dedication. They hold the key to the innovation and creativity that will be required for us to meet the challenges of the future. I have every confidence that, thanks to county employees and with the involvement and support of the community, the future holds much promise.

Thank you and God Bless. ♦



Chairman Aguiar delivering the State of the County address.

Photo by Lee Keller

It's a Jungle Out There!

By Jennifer Celise-Reyes, ES Training Analyst



One hundred and fifty San Bernardino County young people are traveling through the Employment Jungle this summer, identifying obstacles along their path to success, and learning strategies to eliminate these obstacles. From June 26 – 30, the Jobs and Employment Services Department (JESD) sponsored a weeklong series of seminars entitled “It’s a Jungle Out There.” This program, the motto of which is “Youth to Work,” prepares the youth for successful employment placement in a county department for the summer.

During the seminars, they learn to be accountable for their actions, how to dress appropriately on the job and for interviews, what the college environment is like, how to set and

reach goals, how to develop a trustworthy work ethic, and to embrace the message: **DON’T QUIT!** Some of the creative seminars include **SURVIVOR!**, **The Twilight Zone**, **Family Feud** and **Teen Court TV**. The week is capped by a Barbecue and concert on the last day to “Celebrate Success.”

After completing these seminars, the youth get what they came for: **Work Assignments**. Now they must put into action what they have learned if they are going to **KEEP** their jobs. JESD staff members closely monitor their progress and keep the kids motivated to “keep on keeping on!” While most of these kids will only work for the summer, some will be available to participate year round. We would like to thank all the county departments that are hosting county youth employment this summer. You are truly making a difference in the lives of these kids.

The spirit of JESD is alive and well in this inspiring program. That’s what JESD does: encourages people to find the strength within themselves to succeed! For more information about this unique program, please contact the JESD Youth Program Team at (909) 433-3406. ♦



Plant quarantines protect people (Continued from page 5)

moving to California from the northeast are surprised to receive a call from our office requesting to inspect their outdoor articles for gypsy moth egg masses. A self-inspection program set up years ago helps reduce the number of problems encountered, yet every so often, an egg mass is found on a bar-b-que, lawn mower or the underside of a recreational vehicle. Preventing this pest from establishing itself protects shade trees and forests from defoliation.

The primary pests of concern are fruit flies, burrowing and reniform nematodes, hydrilla, and various plant diseases. Each of these pests has the capacity to seriously disrupt the California environment and the economy. California agriculture produces \$29 billion in products and generates another \$55-60 billion in related goods and services.

Preventing the introduction and spread of foreign pests helps keep our landscapes healthy and reduces the level of pesticides used in agriculture and by homeowners. Every 60 days on average, a foreign pest gets established somewhere in the United States. Many of these pests are familiar to us such as the lerp psyllids that have devastated eucalyptus trees in the state, ash whiteflies on shade trees, red fire ants and the West Nile encephalitis virus in New York. Older introduced pests have become so common that few realize that they are a foreign pests; tumble weeds (Russian Thistle), sparrows (English sparrow), starlings (Europe), puncture vine (Mediterranean region), and cockroaches (German and Oriental cockroaches) all came from other countries. Wouldn’t we be better off if we could have kept these pests out? ♦

County leads the way in protecting route 66 – “The Mother Road”

By Anne Brandt, Acting County Archivist

Travelers driving along old Route 66 through the Cajon Pass will notice the large white emblems painted on the road. The popularity of the Route 66 Rendezvous and renewed interest in this historic road have made standard road signs the victims of souvenir hunters. To solve this problem, San Bernardino County public works employees began stenciling the Route 66 shield on the road, just north of Devore, in September of 1999, following approval by the Board of Supervisors of an agreement between the County Department of Public Works-Transportation and the Federal Bureau of Land Management “to develop a historic preservation, maintenance, and management plan for the north and east desert areas of historic Route 66 in San Bernardino County.”

It is appropriate that this particular road should be recognized as important at both the local and federal levels, because it was historic long before it was designated as Route 66. The trail was used for centuries as an Indian footpath along the Mojave River, and a 40-mile portion of the original Route 66 followed the Old Spanish Trail, utilized by Captain Jefferson Hunt and the Mormon colonists who founded San Bernardino in 1851.

In the late 1850s and early 1860s freighters carrying goods and passengers from the East became impatient with the winding wagon ruts along the riverbanks and developed a shortcut that became the standard route. The 1880s brought railroads to the desert, and for decades, wagoneers and later “autoists” were advised to follow the tracks when traveling across the desert. Many portions of the road, however, were impassable to the automobile. Motorists often drove their vehicles as far as they could, then loaded them on a train for several miles until the deep sand subsided and they could get back on the road again.

The first decade of the 20th century brought calls by a small but enthusiastic group of horseless carriage drivers for good “through roads.” A through road would be one that leads to another town or other destination, rather than ending in some farmer’s barn a few miles away. When the Automobile Club of Southern California, founded in 1900, pieced together a route from Los Angeles to New York made up of old wagon and cattle roads already in existence, plans for a paved cross-country road were laid down. The portion of this route from Chicago to Santa Monica would later be designated as the National Old Trails Highway.

Money for this ambitious plan was scarce. In 1909, California voters approved a highway bond for the building of two paved roads to the Arizona border, one through Needles and the other through El Centro. The money was spent, however, long before any pavement was laid. The road to Needles remained a meandering maze of rutted wheel tracks paralleling the railroad line. San Bernardino County did what maintenance and improvements it could with very limited funds.

In 1914 it was a 247-mile trip from San Bernardino to Needles, and it took about four days, without layovers, to traverse it. There was practically no pavement north and east of the Cajon Pass, and no graded road after Barstow in the years following World War I. The need for a hard surface over the desert road was acute, and the solution was provided by one of our own County Supervisors.

Austin B. Mulvane was First District Supervisor from 1917 to 1920 and also served as general manager of the Consolidated Pacific Cement Plaster Company in Amboy. He successfully fought for road funding for his district, and proceeded to develop a light oil macadam paving material, which was applied to a 40-mile stretch of desert highway. The development and use of this pavement received nationwide attention and led to the completion of one of the last links of the National Old Trails Highway.

The Automobile Club of Southern California placed road signs from Los Angeles to Kansas City, Mo., and developed maps to promote use of the highway. By 1920, the road was vastly improved and as many as 100 vehicles a day passed through Needles on the way West. By 1925, more than 100,000 vehicles a year crossed the desert and entered San Bernardino via the Cajon Pass. The state of California took over maintenance of the National Old Trails Highway across the desert in 1923, and by 1926 the pleas of motorists led to the development of a national system of numbered highways. The western portion of the National Old Trails Highway was then designated as Route 66.

Complete paving began on the road from Barstow to Needles in early 1930 and was completed in 1932, just in time for the thousands of tourists heading for Los Angeles for the Tenth Olympiad. Route 66 was celebrated in song and story for 50 years until the 42,500-mile national interstate freeway system replaced it. By 1984 it was no longer a part of the national system, and it disappeared from highway maps, demoted to the role of a surface street.

The 1990s brought a renewal of interest in Route 66, often called “The Mother Road.” Many states along the route have posted historic markers, only to see them constantly seized as souvenirs

by an enthusiastic public. The solution to this problem has already begun in San Bernardino County. The painting of the old Route 66 shields on the pavement itself will stop vandalism and identify the road as an important historical resource. ♦



Photo by Lee Keller



Classes sponsored by San Bernardino County Human Resources Department, Risk Management Division September through December 2001

To register call Call Registrar 388-4110. *EAPs are not* required for these classes.
Risk Management will distribute flyers for the above classes to all County departments.

CLASS NAME	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Driver Awareness (SAF100)	September 19 777 East Rialto Avenue San Bernardino Class ID 9975	October 17 777 East Rialto Avenue San Bernardino Class ID 9976	November 21 777 East Rialto Avenue San Bernardino Class ID 9977	December 19 777 East Rialto Avenue San Bernardino Class ID 9978
Care of the Back (SAF400)	September 20 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9963	October 11 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9964	November 8 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9965	December 13 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9966
Violence in the Workplace (SAF200)		October 10 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 10003		December 12 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 10004
Ergonomics (SAF300)	September 27 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9986		November 29 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9987	
Safety Coordinators Module A (SAF500A)		October 2 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9949		
Safety Coordinators Module B (SAF500B)		October 16 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9954		
Safety Coordinators Module C (SAF500C)		October 30 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9958		
First Aid/CPR (SAF02)		October 3 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9994	November 7 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9995	December 5 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9996
Safety for Supervisors (SAF550)		October 4 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9940	November 1 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9941	December 6 1950 Sunwest San Bernardino Class ID 9942

— Confirmation letters for enrolled registrations will be sent approximately 15 days prior to the date of the class —

Failure to attend without canceling 5 working days prior to the day of class will result in a no-show fee of \$150.00.

San Bernardino County exceeds 10% energy conservation goal

By Dave Gibson, Interim Director, Facilities Management

Congratulations county energy misers! The first four months of energy data show that the County has decreased its electricity usage by 14.19%, exceeding the 10% goal as directed by the county Board of Supervisors by way of a resolution adopted on February 6, 2001.

To measure the success of the County's efforts, staff began collecting and analyzing electricity usage data for the period beginning in February 2000. A wide array of county facilities and sites were used in the survey, coordinated through the County's Energy Crisis Team. The survey was taken from 63 electricity accounts that include The Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Special Districts (street lights, and water pumps), transportation (traffic signals), county buildings (such as the County Government Center) and a small sample of leased facilities.

The survey analyzed electricity usage on a month-by-month basis, comparing monthly data in year 2001 with similar data from 2000.

The county has a total of more than 800 electricity accounts, and a general fund budget for all utilities of \$14.8 million. The accounts used in the survey represent accounts that have annual electricity costs greater than \$25,000. Please see the accompanying chart for detailed information.

Soon, county employees will be able to view this information on the county's Intranet site – <http://countyline>. Just click on "Energy Crisis" listed in the "What's New" section. The data will be updated monthly so you can track our progress. ♦

	Average kWh per day				
	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	TOTAL
Last Year	4,562.91	4,586.21	5,038.83	5,951.59	5,038.39
This Year	3,914.23	4,172.36	4,480.25	4,735.29	4,323.57
% Savings	14.22%	9.02%	11.09%	20.44%	14.19%

County is first to receive microturbines through AQMD program

On May 8, the South Coast Air Quality Management District awarded San Bernardino County a grant for three energy-saving microturbines.

So, what's a microturbine? A microturbine is a compact, low-emission power generator that provides electrical power. The microturbines are fueled by natural gas and, in total, will provide 180 kW of power for the county.

The air district created and funded an emergency microturbine program directed to help alleviate the critical electricity demands beginning this summer without resorting to more polluting sources of electricity. County and air district staff toured the county and determined the best site for the microturbines would be Central Juvenile Hall in San Bernardino.

"Juvenile Hall is the perfect site for this technology because we can use the exhaust heat to preheat the boilers that provide the hot water for Juvenile Hall," said AQMD Chief Engineer Al Baez. Another key feature of the microturbines is that they can be programmed to run during peak electricity demand periods when

the electricity rates are the highest, thus reducing the overall utility costs to the county and allowing the county to do its part to minimize the likelihood for rolling blackouts.

Second District Supervisor Jon Mikels, the county's representative on the AQMD Board, suggested that the County pursue this opportunity. "I'm happy to be involved in a project that saves energy and improves air quality," Supervisor Mikels said.

The county will closely monitor the use and effectiveness of the microturbines. "We have an exciting opportunity to be a part of this new technology, and if it works as well as we hope we may recommend to the Board of Supervisors an expansion of this program," said Dave Gibson, Interim Director of the County Facilities Management Department.

The microturbines were delivered in mid-June and were scheduled to be up and running by July. San Bernardino County will be the first to have completed the installation of the microturbines awarded

under this program. The three microturbines are valued at \$200,000. ♦



Interim Facilities Management Director Dave Gibson (left), Second District Field Representative Julie Gilbert and Second District Supervisor Jon Mikels with one of the three energy-efficient microturbines providing power to Juvenile Hall.

ENERGY Q & A

This edition: air conditioning

Q *Why have County thermostats been reset to 78°?*

A It's standard knowledge in the energy industry that for every two degrees you raise your thermostat above 72, you can save 1% to 3% in energy per degree.

Q *OK, but how much energy do we "really" save?*

A Starting in May, Facilities Management started taking energy consumption readings for the two "chillers" that run the air conditioning at the Government Center in downtown San Bernardino. Since June 1, when the thermostats were set at 78 degrees, they had to use both of the chillers three times. Typically, during the summer, they have to run both of the chillers every day to supply enough cold air. More importantly, by only having to run one chiller, the county saves at least 25% in its energy use. Also, the air conditioning equipment used about 4% less energy in June, when the thermostats were set at 78 degrees than in May, when they were set 3 to 4 degrees cooler.

Q *Why shouldn't I use an electric fan?*

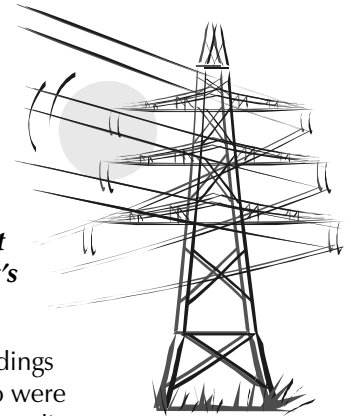
A A standard-sized electric desk fan uses as much energy as one 60-watt light bulb. To give you an idea of how much energy that represents, if one out of every four county employees uses an electric fan, they will use the same amount of energy that is needed to supply power to entire Public Works Building on 3rd Street in San Bernardino. Battery-operated fans are available that produce almost as much air movement as their plug-in cousins.

Q *The building I work in is old. The AC mechanic says that the AC is working, but it has always been too hot. What's up with that?*

A The AC systems in buildings constructed many decades ago were built to different heating and cooling standards than those built today. For example, nearly all of our workspaces today have computers in them and computers generate heat. Buildings designed and built today take this and other sources of additional "heat-load" into consideration when engineering for AC systems. Of course, those who designed the buildings many decades ago did not anticipate the additional heat-loads that we have today. So, in our older buildings, the AC systems are working the best that they can, but they may not be able to supply the proper cooling needed today. Typically, when older buildings are upgraded to today's standards, cooling capacity is increased by 30%.

Q *Is any help on the way?*

A Yes! In this year's budget the Board of Supervisors approved almost \$3 million for Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. The county has hired an engineering firm to complete an HVAC assessment on many county buildings. Once the assessment is complete we can proceed with the HVAC projects. ♦



County employees to picnic again in June 2002

Our most recent County Employees Picnic, held Sept. 9, 2000, at Glen Helen Regional Park, was a resounding success, according to many of the 9,000 people who attended. Employees and their families were treated to the usual wide range of activities from live entertainment to sporting events, such as the ever-popular volleyball tournament.

The only problem seemed to be the date.

County picnics have traditionally been held in June, so last September's date threw many employees for a loop. Besides popping up at an unfamiliar time, the September picnic for many interfered with Labor Day weekend getaways and back-to-school activities. And as most people know, the weather tends to be a bit more oppressive in late summer than in the late spring.

Unfortunately, by the time picnic organizers realized a return to June was needed, it became too late to schedule and plan a picnic for June 2001. So plans are now underway for a better-than-ever County Employees Picnic in June 2002.

The Board of Supervisors, which last year for the first time made funding available for the County Employees Picnic, has again included funding for a picnic in the 2001-2002 Public Works Department/Regional Parks budget to thank employees for their hard work and to avoid having to rely on numerous sponsorships and contributions.

Picnic organizers will begin meeting soon to plan the June 2002 County Employees Picnic. Again, a successful event will rely on participation from all county departments, so keep an eye out for future announcements in *The Straight Arrow*. ♦

County improves 457 Deferred Compensation Plan

By Marcel Turner, Human Resources Director

The Board of Supervisors last month formalized an agreement with Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Company that will increase the number of investment choices to the thousands of participants in the County's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan participants while reducing daily asset charges by about 63 percent. Also, participants won't have to pay any penalties.

The agreement approved by the Board extends the term of the contract with Aetna to administer the Deferred Compensation Program and its FICA substitute plan for part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees to April 1, 2003. This extension will provide the County an opportunity to prepare a Request for Proposal and pursue competitive offers for these services.

It also decreases certain administrative fees. The daily asset charge on variable investment options within the Aetna Portfolio Choice program will be reduced from 0.95 percent to 0.35 percent. This reduction on an employee's variable fund portfolio valued at \$50,000 would represent a savings of approximately \$300 per year. The daily asset charge is not assessed against investments in the Fixed or Fixed Plus Accounts.

Also, certain deferred sales charges ranging from 3 percent to 5 percent, which would have been assessed on participants account balances at the time of contract termination by the county, will be eliminated within the Aetna Portfolio Choice

program April 1, 2003. A 5 percent assessment on an employee's portfolio valued at \$50,000 would have cost the participant \$2,500.

The current 37 investment fund options available to plan participants will continue at this time. Mapping to a reduced number of options as previously proposed and communicated will not take place. Instead, the 457 Deferred Compensation Committee will evaluate and recommend, with the assistance of financial consultants, changes to non-performing funds based on participation, fund balances, fees and performance. Further information will be provided to plan participants regarding fund deletions/additions.

However, current investment choices will be expanded to include Fidelity Advisory Equity Growth Fund (Class T), Lord Abbett Affiliated Fund (Class A), Lord Abbett Mid-Cap Value Fund (Class A) and the Pilgrim International Value Fund (Class A) as previously recommended by the 457 Deferred Compensation Committee.

The Board of Supervisors directed the Human Resources Department, in cooperation with the County's financial consultants, to conduct an investment workshop for 457 Plan Participants. The program to be scheduled will include investment styles & strategies, investment options and the evaluation of fund performance. An announcement of the date, time and location of the workshop will be forthcoming. ♦



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What SHERIFF'S RODEO

A PRCA Pro-Rodeo with Calf Roping, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bareback Bronc Riding, Barrel Racing, Steer Roping, Steer Wrestling, Bull Riding and Rodeo Clowns.

When Friday & Saturday, September 28 & 29, 2001
Sunday, September 30, 2001

7:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Where . . . Glen Helen Regional Park, 2555 Glen Helen Parkway, San Bernardino

Cost \$12

Proceeds will benefit the Boys Scouts of America (California Inland Empire Council), Girl Scouts (San Gorgonio Council), Sheriff's Mounted Posse and the Sheriff Rangers.

County employees can purchase tickets in advance at the following sites:

APPLE VALLEY POLICE STATION, Lori Keyser (760) 240-7425

BARSTOW SHERIFF'S STATION, Sheri Echols (760) 256-4841

CENTRAL DETENTION CENTER, Kathy Longhetti (909) 386-0923

COURT SERVICES-SAN BERNARDINO, Cheryl Konarski (909) 387-5506 or Tina Shilling (909) 387-5509

REHABILITATION CENTER, Cindy Twitchell (909) 473-2511

VICTORVILLE CITY POLICE STATION, Karen Morgan (760) 241-2073

WEST VALLEY DETENTION CENTER, Juanita Jaronski (909) 463-5010



Ad campaign honors County employees

Being a public servant at times may seem like a thankless task, especially if you come in contact with the public only when someone is frustrated or facing a crisis.

That's why Arrowhead Credit Union and The Sun newspaper teamed up earlier this year to launch an advertising campaign honoring a "County Employee of the Week" with a quarter-page, full-color ad with photo each Wednesday in The Sun.

Once a month each county department is asked to nominate an employee who does exemplary work on the job and, hopefully, in their community as well. A panel composed of the county's top administrators then judges the entries and decides which four will be honored with ads in The Sun during the coming month.

Two additional employees are honored each week as "Honorable Mentions."

Perhaps you're wondering what becomes of the nominations that aren't selected. Well, so far, so few entries have been made that everyone who has been nominated has ended up in an ad as either an Employee of the Week or an Honorable Mention.

If you know of someone who deserves this honor, please write a few paragraphs describing why this person deserves to be recognized and submit it to your department head. Or, feel free to submit it directly to County Public Information Officer David Wert at dwert@cao.sbcounty.gov. ♦



JESD, Veteran's Affairs reunite two sisters *(Continued from page 1)*

Shanell's boss, Veterans Services Representative David Delgado, contacted the County Jobs and Employment Services Department office in Ontario because he needed to fill a Work Experience position in his office. The Work Experience program allows recipients of Temporary Aid to Needy Families to gain work experience in county departments while they search for employment.

Sabina Pollock had recently moved to the Inland Empire from Orange County and in January was hired for the work experience position in the Veterans Affairs Department. He asked Shanell to train Sabina in her new job.

"When she introduced herself, I started to wonder," Shanell recalls. "When I asked her for her father's name, I knew she was my sister."

Shanell was too nervous to confirm her suspicion, so she went to her boss and asked him what to do. "Just talk to her" was his response.

After talking to her, there was no doubt that she had found her long lost sister.

Everyone in the office was filled with joy and amazement,

Shanell remembers. "I was in shock," Shanell said. "I'm still in shock."

Needless to say, Sabina's feelings were very similar. Through the years, she had made futile attempts at locating her sister. "I called 1-800-US-SEARCH," she recalled. "I even called the Ricki Lake Show." She had no idea that while she lived in Anaheim, Shanell was only moments away in San Bernardino.

After 20 years of searching, it seemed amazing that two family members could be reunited at the workplace. Even more amazing is the fact that Shanell and Sabina met exactly 20 years to the day of their father's death.

In the years since they first saw one another at their grandmother's home, Shanell and Sabina have experienced much in their lives. They have grown up and started families of their own. Shanell, 24, recently married and Sabina, 19, has a 1-year-old son.

Since they met, the two women have begun building a strong relationship. They are not only sisters, but are also close friends.

Sabina concluded, "Now I know her... I finally know her." ♦

EXERCISES IN ETHICS *(Continued from page 3)*

for the county to set a policy outlining which kind of employees could participate, and then for the county to pay for the employee's participation when it concludes that it is in the county's interest to do so.

The possible career change needs to be approached carefully as well. It would be unethical to accept a position in the private sector if the assistant county manager had direct responsibility for negotiating a contract with that private company. This would look like a sweetheart deal to the public and could undermine public confidence in professional administrators.

Former public employees need to avoid any direct lobbying before the county government for private interests for a reasonable period of time after they leave public service. Many communities prohibit such lobbying activities for a year after the employee leaves the public sector. ♦

The inquiries and advice in this column are reviewed by ICMA's Committee on Professional Conduct to give guidance to ICMA members in the big and little ethical decisions they make daily. The advice does not necessarily reflect County of San Bernardino policy.

County inspectors monitor deadly ozone depleter

In 1992, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (a group of more than 100 nations) declared methyl bromide an ozone-depleting chemical and signed a treaty to protect the ozone layer.

A phase-out in production and use of methyl bromide was agreed to by the United States and other developed nations, and called for a 50 percent reduction in 2001, 70 percent in 2003, and 100 percent in 2005 (based on 1991 usage).

Methyl bromide is a fumigant used to kill insects, mites, nematodes, weeds and plant disease organisms and is injected into the soil before planting fruit, vegetable and flower crops. It is also used on a limited basis to fumigate structures for termites and to control insects in grain mills, ships, and railroad cars. Because methyl bromide is a colorless, odorless gas that is also highly toxic to animals and people, it must be used with tear gas, which has a pungent acrid odor.

Independently of federal and international action, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has imposed its own methyl bromide restrictions that are enforced locally by the San Bernardino County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

After more than a year of development, new and even more detailed restrictions and conditions for the use of methyl bromide in field fumigation took effect in January 2001 in California. Notification procedures, buffer zones, and worker protective measures are just some of the new regulations designed to specifically address short-term exposures.

County Agricultural Standards Officers Roberto Lilis, Emilio Lopez, Brad Sanford and Mark Tully issue permits and inspect applications of methyl bromide in fields and houses. Permits are required before methyl bromide may be used in fields, and the fumigation site is reviewed to ensure that sensitive sites such as homes and schools will be protected.

Historically a portion of all pesticide applications, including fumigations, has been monitored to assure compliance. But since last year, Roberto, Emilio, Brad and Mark have attempted to monitor 100 percent of all the methyl bromide field and structural fumigations in order to ensure compliance with the new regulations and prevent complaints.

The number of methyl bromide house fumigations has dramatically decreased in California because of restrictions imposed by the state regarding buffer zones and aeration procedures, and another fumigant, Vikane, is almost exclusively used now. The inspectors at a lower frequency monitor Vikane fumigations.

With the methyl bromide field fumigation season beginning in August in San Bernardino County, these inspectors once again attempt to check all field fumigations. Most of the field fumigations are in strawberry fields prevalent in the Chino and Ontario areas where Roberto works. It will be a challenge for both our staff and growers due to the complexity of the regulations, number of applications and occurrence of simultaneous applications.

These regulations and the level of inspections safeguard the public health while also protecting the health of pest control employees and fieldworkers and preventing environmental contamination.

During the past 10 years, the San Bernardino County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures has monitored more than 1,000 fumigations, both structural and field. Violations observed during these inspections have resulted in civil penalties levied by the agricultural commissioner when warranted.

As a result, there has never been a confirmed fatality, hospitalization, or serious injury, incident or complaint involving methyl bromide during this time frame in San Bernardino County, which has not been the case in other counties. ♦



Combined Giving Campaign set to get underway

“County Employees, Our Community’s Heart in Giving” will be the theme of the coming year’s Combined Giving Campaign, which launches on Oct. 1.

The theme is appropriate considering how generous County employees have been to local charities. The level of giving increases each year, with annual proceeds topping \$300,000.

As proof of this, Community Health Charities has recognized the County as Southern California’s Most Outstanding Account. Every year, County employees voluntarily donate a portion of their paychecks to Children’s Fund, Community Health Charities, Earth Share of California and the six United Way agencies that serve San Bernardino County.

County employees will soon hear from their department coordinators. Most won’t even miss the amount they commit to the campaign. However, when the donations are combined, they make a genuine difference in our communities. ♦

Board of Supervisors

The following are recent actions taken by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors:

Board gives final approval to anti-“rave” ordinance

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved modifications to the County Development Code affecting Temporary Special Event permits, resulting in increased requirements for sponsors of special events, including music events.

First District Supervisor Bill Postmus said he and his staff involved themselves in the development of the ordinance because of its potential to help law enforcement officials control and prevent all-night events commonly known as “rave” concerts.

“This ordinance is needed,” Postmus said. “It will assist our local law enforcement in putting down rave concerts, which have been detrimental to public safety and have cost the County substantial amounts of money and law enforcement resources.”

“Rave concerts are by definition a public nuisance,” Postmus added. “These events are notorious for illegal drug use, violence and disturbing the peace. We have seen time after time promoters pushing these events, thinking they can do whatever they want in our unincorporated communities. Our message to them is ‘not in my backyard.’”

Postmus said while the ordinance doesn’t ban raves outright, it strengthens restrictions and helps ensure adequate law enforcement protection surrounding such events.

“With this new ordinance, when rave operators don’t secure the required permits prior to holding events for 200 or more people in unincorporated areas, or when they exceed the allowable numbers and other restrictions, their events will be deemed illegal and will be shut down,” he said.

“The previous ordinance caused law enforcement to wait until the population of an un-permitted event reached 500 before they could shut the event down,” Postmus said. “While law enforcement had to wait for these numbers to mount, our communities were exposed to unruly crowds of up to 499 people.”

Supervisors reaffirm opposition to nuclear waste transport

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors renewed its opposition to plans by the federal government to route trucks laden with nuclear waste through the San Bernardino County desert en route to out-of-state disposal sites.

The San Bernardino County route is being considered to avoid hauling the waste through populated areas in other states, such as Las Vegas in Nevada.

In a resolution to be forwarded to the county’s federal representatives, the Board pointed out the routes under consideration would take the waste through Barstow and Baker, threaten environmentally sensitive areas, and endanger the desert’s transportation-based economy.

“The thousands of shipments over the next several

decades pose an unnecessary threat to citizen’s health and property, air and water quality and other natural resources,” according to the resolution.

The waste, much of it generated east of Nevada, would be shipped to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, the Nevada Test Site and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico.

Supervisors direct staff on videotaping board meetings for broadcast

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors directed county staff to come up with a cost estimate for creating videotapes of Board meetings for distribution to television broadcasters.

In October, Supervisor Aguiar asked the County Administrative Officer to evaluate the feasibility of taping Board of Supervisors meetings for distribution to interested media outlets. Staff from the County Administrative Office and Information Services Department evaluated and fine-tuned the

county’s current audio-visual capabilities to determine whether the task could be accomplished “in-house”

with existing resources, and concluded that additional equipment would be needed, including higher resolution cameras and additional lighting.

The Board directed staff to consult with local broadcasters and videotaping companies to help determine what might still be needed. The Board also directed staff to determine if any cost savings could be achieved by using any new equipment to

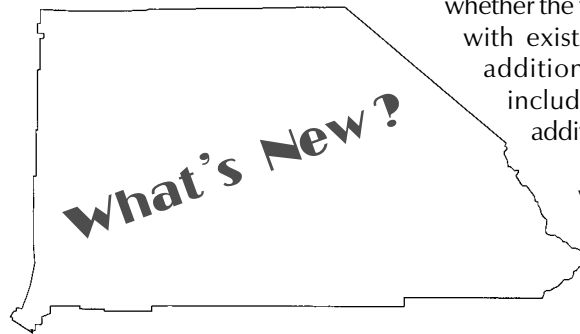
meet the video production needs of county departments who now use outside contractors.

Board grants final approval to redistricting plan

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors gave final approval to a decennial redistricting plan that makes only minor adjustments to the shape of the county’s five supervisorial districts. The new districts take effect in 30 days.

State law requires the Board to redraw supervisorial district boundaries in response to each decennial U.S. Census to ensure that each of the five districts contains an equal number of residents. 2000 Census data released earlier this year peg the county’s population at 1,709,434, meaning that each of the county’s five supervisorial districts should contain about 341,887 residents.

The Board conducted its fifth and final public hearing and reiterated its approval for a plan that would move Wrightwood from the Second to First district, move Joshua Tree and a portion of the Twentynine Palms Marine Base from the First to Third district, unify Highland within the Third District, and move the Fifth District further west in Fontana into the current Second District. ♦



Supervisors approve 2001-2002 budget

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in June adopted a final \$2,136,651,136 countywide operating budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. The budget calls for increased support for law enforcement, parks and trails, transportation projects and programs for seniors while setting aside \$13,792,759 for unforeseen emergencies.

Specifically, the Board set aside nearly \$7 million for the development of a countywide trail system, more than \$37 million for law enforcement programs out of the Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's office, more than \$8 million to support drug testing under the Proposition 36 drug court initiative, more than \$33 million for preschool services, more than \$26 million for transportation projects, nearly \$50,000 for maintenance projects at the county's historic sites, more than \$36,000 to operate a public swimming pool at Barstow-Daggett Airport, and \$500,000 to put energy conservation measures into place.

"In this budget the Board has placed a strong emphasis on public safety and cultural resources," said Transitional County Administrative Officer John Michaelson. "The Board also showed a strong sense of fiscal conservatism by setting aside nearly \$14 million for contingencies."

Combined with enterprise funds that run Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Solid Waste Management and other programs, total county appropriations are budgeted at more than \$2.4 billion.

The Board adopted the budget following a weeklong public budget workshop in May and public hearings conducted from June 11 to 18. Supervisors praised county staff for its hard work in preparing the budget.

The unforeseen expenses to be addressed by the nearly \$14 million in contingencies include the results of salary negotiations, increased energy costs, critical facility repairs, the Prop. 36 drug court initiative, and changes yet to be made in the state budget.

At a later meeting, the Board heard a report from Mr. Michaelson on the estimated impacts the recently approved state budget will have on the county. The budget, adopted on July 26, 2001:

- ◆ Eliminated last year's \$250 million local government fiscal relief funding, which provided \$3.9 million to San Bernardino County's general fund. The County Administrative Office had anticipated this cut, therefore the funding was not included in the 2001-02 county budget.
- ◆ CalWorks Incentive Funds for 2001-02 were eliminated to the tune of \$18 million a year for San Bernardino County. Termination of funding this year and into the future had been anticipated. The Incentive Funds received to date are approximately \$79 million, of which approximately \$12 million was expended during 2000-01. It is anticipated that a larger amount will be expended during 2001-02.
- ◆ Child Welfare Services Allocation has increased from \$52.3 million for 2000-01 to \$53.5 million for 2001-02. It is anticipated that the county's share of cost of \$6.5 million will increase to \$7.5 million based on an anticipated state recalculation of the various counties' share of cost (as much as a \$1 million impact on the general fund).
- ◆ One-time statewide \$25 million for trauma centers to be allocated by plans developed by local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (i.e. ICEMA) was included in the state budget. Loma Linda and Arrowhead Regional Medical Centers are the local trauma centers. Application will be required.
- ◆ Reduction of \$4 million for HIV education and prevention. Local impact depends on how the state structures the reduction. If the reduction is directed entirely at local programs, it could result in as much as a 40% reduction to San Bernardino County's current funding from \$500,000 to \$300,000.

- ◆ Reduction of \$2.6 million for Maternal and Child Health programs. If not reversed, this will impact San Bernardino with about a \$160,000 reduction in state and federal matching funds. Assembly member Herzog is expected to introduce legislation to reverse the reduction.
- ◆ The statewide reduction of \$5 million in AB 1913 Juvenile Justice funding could reduce San Bernardino County funding by approximately \$76,000 (as calculated by the Probation Department). Although the amount of funding has decreased slightly, the revenue stream is no longer scheduled to sunset on a specific date. The modest loss in funds is more than offset by the potential for multi-year revenues.
- ◆ We're still awaiting news regarding SB 223, which would provide \$18 million statewide for Proposition 36 drug testing (with an estimated \$900,000 for our county).
- ◆ The \$40 million in federal pass-through funds (down from \$130 million) for juvenile detention facilities will allow San Bernardino County to apply for funding to expand Central Juvenile Hall and remove tents from that overcrowded facility.
- ◆ The \$3 million statewide reduction in drug court funding will have no immediate impact upon San Bernardino County because our drug courts have existing multi-year grants. Should future grants ultimately be reduced, local drug courts could be impacted.
- ◆ It is also noteworthy that although the state budget included \$30 million to combat the methamphetamine trade in the Central Valley, no funding was included to assist San Bernardino County law enforcement efforts. Given that the Inland Empire has long been recognized as a major area of methamphetamine production, the county will continue to seek funding to address this growing problem.
- ◆ The \$5 million statewide loss in COPS funding is expected to reduce San Bernardino County funding by \$168,000; funding for high technology crime efforts is projected at approximately \$110,000 less than what was received in 2000-01. Because the Sheriff's Department hasn't yet budgeted these revenues, program impacts will be minimal.
- ◆ County Library will have a shortfall in their budgeted revenue of \$174,000 (due to the elimination of \$110,000 from the local government relief funding and \$64,000 from the Public Library Fund).

At a subsequent meeting, the Board threw its support behind state legislation aimed at reserving the Governor's budget reduction of \$2.6 million for county Maternal and Child Health Services.

As part of the 2001-2002 State Budget, Gov. Gray Davis made a variety of cuts to the state Department of Health Services' local assistance funding. One of the more glaring reductions was \$2.644 million from the County Maternal and Child Health Services program. The cut was significant because the federal government adds \$3 for every \$1 that states spend in this area. San Bernardino County Public Health officials have already begun to prepare for a 57 percent reduction in program funding, from \$372,821 to \$163,774.

Reversing the Governor's reduction will allow Public Health to continue to develop and carry out programs as the Perinatal Coalition on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Prenatal Care Guidance and Fetal and Infant Mortality prevention. Options for Recovery, a State pilot project aimed at meeting the needs of chemically dependent pregnant and parenting women and their infants, found savings between \$1,100-\$5,200 per infant born drug free. The County Of San Bernardino has 4,200 drug-exposed infants born each year. A savings of up to \$21,8140,000 could be realized in this county alone if all infants were born drug free. ◆